



Federal Communications Commission
Washington, D.C. 20554

MAY 3 1996

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF SECRETARY

The Honorable Dick Armey
U. S. House of Representatives
9901 Valley Ranch Parkway East, Suite 3050
Irving, Texas 75063

Dear Congressman Armey:

Thank you for your letter of April 3, 1996, on behalf of your constituent, Raymond C. Trott, regarding the Commission's decision to freeze acceptance of paging applications. Mr. Trott expresses concern that the suspension of processing of paging applications will adversely affect small businesses that provide paging services.

The Commission is currently conducting a rulemaking proceeding that proposes to transition from licensing paging frequencies on a transmitter-by-transmitter basis to a geographic licensing approach, using auctions to award licenses where there are mutually exclusive applications. In conjunction with that proceeding, the Commission initially froze processing of applications for paging frequencies. On April 23, 1996, the Commission released a First Report and Order in WT Docket 96-18 and PP Docket 93-253, which adopted interim measures governing the licensing of paging systems and partially lifted the interim freeze for incumbent paging licensees. For your convenience and information, enclosed is a copy of the Press Release concerning the First Report and Order, which includes a summary of the principal decisions made. Specifically, small and medium sized incumbent paging companies will be permitted to expand their service areas if the proposed new site is within 65 kilometers (40 miles) of an authorized and operating site. These interim rules will remain in effect until the Commission adopts final rules in the paging proceeding.

Thank you for your inquiry.

Sincerely,

David L. Furth
Chief, Commercial Wireless Division
Wireless Telecommunications Bureau

Enclosure

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The following record
has been filed
with the Commission
on May 9, 1996

CONGRESSMAN DICK ARMEY
26TH DISTRICT, TEXAS

MAJORITY LEADER



Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515-4326

April 3, 1996

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PRB
PR-PAGING
1850

Ms. Lauren J. Belzin
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M. Street, NW, Room 808
Washington, D. C. 20554

RE: Trott Communications Group
Raymond C. Trott, P. E.
1425 Greenway Drive, Suite 350
Irving, TX 75038

Dear Ms. Belzin,

The enclosed communication is submitted for your consideration. I would appreciate your careful review of this constituent's concerns, as highlighted for your convenience.

If it is not possible to lift this "freeze," please be specific in the reasons it is not possible to do so. If you have any questions, or if I may provide any additional information to you, please contact Martin Fox, in the district office. In addition, **your response should be directed to the district office.**

Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

DICK ARMEY
Member of Congress

DA/sjh
Enclosure

COMMUNICATIONS GROUP

FACSIMILE TRANSMITTAL MEMO

To: Congressman Joe Barton Fax: 202/225-3052
From: Raymond C. Trott, P.E.
Date: February 17, 1996
Subject: FCC Freeze on Paging Frequencies

Dear Congressman Barton:

I am writing to you asking for your help. The FCC on February 8, 1996, imposed a "freeze" on the paging industry.

The paging industry has witnessed the previous spectrum auctions authorized by Congress in 1994. The intent of Congress was to provide a vehicle for helping reduce the deficit which I think all responsible citizens realize is a must. The intent was also to auction only virgin spectrum, i.e., not being utilized by the Telecommunications Industry. This also makes sense.

Now comes the FCC freezing all paging frequency applications with the intent of auctioning these precious frequencies. They now have reached down into spectrum currently being utilized by paging companies, large and small. The impact of imposing this freeze and subsequent auctions will be devastating to the small carriers now providing paging services. These small carriers typically operate on shared frequencies or the lower exclusive UHF or VHF frequencies. These small businesses are victims of a "drive-by shooting" by the FCC in their efforts to implement market area licensing needs of large regional and nationwide carriers in the upper frequency bands.

In this proceeding, the FCC stated its commitment to not inhibit paging carriers' ability to compete or meet customer needs. The text of the order, unfortunately, falls short of their stated intent. This action is not only unprecedented and unnecessary, it appears to be in conflict with the common carrier's obligation to provide service on demand.

I and my small carrier clients ask that you and your colleagues demand that the FCC lift this "freeze" immediately on the shared channels and the lower VHF and UHF channels.

Thank you for your consideration on this extremely important issue.

Sincerely,


Raymond C. Trott, P.E.
President

We are transmitting a total of 1 pages, including this transmittal memo. If you do not receive all pages legibly, please phone (214) 580-1911.

1425 Greenway Drive, Suite 350, Irving, Texas 75038, 214/580-1911, Fax: 214/580-0641

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cc: Commercial Wireless Division
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